

*Compliments of your friend:  
Arthur J. Page*

A HISTORY OF

**TRINITY METHODIST  
CHURCH**

1884 - 1959

POQUOSON, VIRGINIA



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH—1959



BISHOP PAUL N. GARBER



REVEREND  
H. K. SWANN  
1957

## FOREWORD

The Annual Conference of 1957 appointed me to Trinity Church in Poquoson, and with my family. I moved into a neighborhood of new friends. We have seen the Church and Sunday School grow numerically and spiritually.

Shortly after my arrival, I learned two things: In the first instance, we had to enter into a great building program, and also, in 1959 the Church would celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

At the meeting of the Official Board, January 11, 1959, it appeared that our building would be completed and that we could have open house and homecoming as we celebrated our Anniversary. Brother Authur J. Page suggested that we have a History of the Church prepared in book form and made available to the congregation and friends. The Committee on Finance and the Official Board, gave their approval, and Mr. Page was authorized to begin work on the History.

With the able assistance of Mrs. Howard Garland Forrest, Jr., and the remaining members of the Committee, whose names are recorded in this book, the work has been completed. As Pastor of the Church, I am happy to ask God's blessings upon all who are today laboring to make Trinity a greater Church and upon those who shall take up the work tomorrow.

Trinity is closing 75 years of service to God and man, and may the spirit of sacrifice and service guide the congregation in the years to come.

Harvey K. Swann  
Minister

1870

## HISTORY OF TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH POQUOSON, VIRGINIA

Early Methodism on the lower Peninsula was known as the Hampton and York Charge. In 1870 the Charge was divided and this section which is York County became known as the York Charge and was composed of the four Churches of York County, Zion, Providence, Tabernacle and Trinity.

The parsonage on the York Charge, of which Trinity was a part, was located in Grafton, Virginia on the main highway directly across from Leroy Amory's home, now owned by his son, Ernest. This parsonage served the York Charge until the Fall of 1901 at which time the people of this community, realizing a need for a pastor closer to them determined to divide the Charge. Therefore, when the Annual Conference met in Newport News in November, 1901 with Bishop Duncan presiding, the old York Charge was divided and Trinity became a part of the East York Charge. The Rev. J. W. Nickolson, who has served as pastor of the old York Charge, was appointed as the first pastor of the new Charge.

Trinity Church grew out of a Chapel, known as the "Sons of Temperance", which was located approximately four hundred yards north of the present building on the opposite side of the road. This Chapel, or Hall, was used for Sunday School for a number of years, and preaching services were held once a month.

In 1884, the people of the community decided to build a church. W. T. Carmines, (better known as Bill Tom Carmines) gave the land upon which the present Sanctuary is located. The building committee was composed of the following: Solomon C. Evans, Chairman; Elias R. Holloway, J. Frank Amory, Edward Bradshaw, and Elisha Lawson, Sr. The contract was awarded to Charlie Cake and the builder was J. D. Hosier, who afterwards became a Methodist minister and married one of our local girls, Miss Elizabeth Holloway. Mr. Hosier was a member of the Virginia Methodist Conference for forty-four years. At that time this section of the state obtained most of its lumber from Suffolk, Virginia, and Captain Lem Bradshaw, who owned a large sailboat, delivered the first lumber to the site.

The first Church, a small frame building, was dedicated in May, 1885 by the Rev. R. N. Sledd. The Rev. J. E. McSparran was the first pastor of Trinity Church. The first Board of Stewards was composed of Edward Bradshaw, Chairman; Elisha Lawson, Sr., J. Frank Amory,





FIRST CHURCH  
MAY 10, 1884



SECOND CHURCH  
1902



THIRD CHURCH 1921



FOURTH BUILDING COMPLETED 1931

Solomon C. Evans, and R. J. Forrest, (known as Captain Bob Forrest) who was also class leader and exhorter. These men served until death. The first Trustees were Edward Bradshaw, Solomon C. Evans, and Elisha Lawson, Sr.

By 1902 the Church had outgrown its original building, and Mr. Tommie Phillips, a contractor of the Emmaus neighborhood, was authorized to build an addition across the rear of the first structure, forming a T. Completed and dedicated in the Fall of 1902, this building proved adequate until 1920, when the present brick Sanctuary was constructed to replace the original wooden building, and the addition was used to house the Sunday School. This Sanctuary was built at a cost of thirty-seven thousand dollars. This amount was paid in eight years. The women of the Church paid ten thousand dollars of this amount in "Sunday eggs". When we say "Sunday eggs" we mean that the women each Monday morning went from house to house to collect the eggs that had been laid the previous day. The Rev. J. R. Eggleston was pastor during this building program. This debt was retired and the Sanctuary was dedicated on June 21, 1928. Bishop Mouzon was the speaker for this occasion and his subject was "We are all called to be Saints". Of the building committee W. R. Holloway, (better known as Bob Manning) is still living and serving on the Official Board of this Church. The other members of the committee, all of whom have passed on to their reward, were R. L. Forrest, Sr., Chairman; Littleton Insley, Healy Topping, Robert T. Hawkins, and George W. Amory, Sr.

There is no authentic record of the beginning of the Sunday School in the Hall of the "Sons of Temperance" but in May, 1884 there was a Sunday School named "Welcome". The Welcome School at this

date had twenty-four members including officers and teachers. George Wesley Amory, who was the first Superintendent, served for six years. At the Fourth Quarterly Conference of 1890 Mr. Amory resigned, and Joseph Manning Holloway was elected Superintendent and served until the close of the Conference year of 1895. At that time he resigned and Healy Topping was elected Superintendent and served until the Fourth Quarterly Conference of 1907. When Mr. Topping resigned, W. R. Holloway was elected and served until the Conference of 1915. Mr. Holloway was succeeded by Healy Topping who served continuously until 1941 at which time he felt it necessary to resign because of ill health. At the time of his resignation, it is noteworthy that Mr. Topping had served as Superintendent for thirty-eight years, or approximately two-thirds of the time since the organization of the School. W. Herbert Amory was elected as Superintendent to succeed Mr. Topping and served until his death in 1952. The present Superintendent is J. Elwood Forrest who was elected at the First Quarterly Conference in 1952. Alton M. White and Holston C. Evans were elected in 1953 as Assistant Superintendents to aid in securing new members and improving attendance in the Church School.

George W. Elliott was the first Secretary and served two years, until October of 1886. At the Fourth Quarterly Conference of 1886 Azrus D. Page was elected and served continuously until his death in 1935, a period of forty-nine years. He was succeeded by his son, Arthur J. Page, who is currently the Secretary of the Church School. It is interesting to note that since 1886 the office of Secretary has been served continuously by father and son.

T. M. Bradley was elected Assistant Secretary in 1886 and served two years. When Mr. Bradley resigned, Walter Evans was elected to fill the vacancy. He served until his resignation because of ill health, and since that date the School has not had an Assistant Secretary.

The first Treasurer of Trinity Sunday School was John B. Rollins, Sr. Few records of this office are available. This is understandable, when one realizes that an average Sunday "collection" would rarely exceed the sum of seventeen cents. No checking accounts were necessary as all transactions were on a cash basis. A typical Church School transaction was that of purchasing the Catechism. When this became necessary the Secretary would go to the Treasurer and get the pennies which had been collected, obtain a money order, and send for literature.

Trinity has always been awake, alive and growing; therefore, the year 1930 found the pastor, the Rev. Herman L. Hastings, in the midst of a much needed building program at Trinity. A modern Church School Annex was erected with assembly halls for departmentalized worship for each department of the School, and with twenty-one class rooms; also a small kitchen and lockers. The contract for this building was awarded on January 14, 1930 to Davis Construction Company of Richmond, Virginia for the sum of thirty-eight thousand dollars.

This building was erected during the depression years. Payments were completed and notes burned on Sunday morning, October 31, 1943, which was the last Sunday of a four-year pastorate of the Rev. C. A. Turner, Jr. The building committee for this addition was: W. R. Holloway, Chairman; J. J. Berge, Vice Chairman; H. W. White, Treasurer; W. Herbert Amory, Secretary; Littleton Insley, L. S. Page, Tom Curt Holloway, John W. Pauls, Steven D. Holloway, W. M. Rollins, R. L. Forrest, Jr., (better known as Bob Spider), J. W. Insley, J. F. Bunting, Sr., R. A. Holloway, (better known as Bob Early), and M. B. Rollins. At Henry M. White's death Paul B. Hunt was appointed to take the place of Mr. White and served for a short time. When he resigned Ira B. Forrest was appointed to take his place and served until the debt was paid in full.

The corner stone was laid for this building Saturday evening, January 28, 1931 by St. Tammany Lodge No. 5, A. F. & A. M. of Hampton, Virginia. The service was called to order by Rt. Worshipful George T. Elliott, presiding Master. The Rev. John H. Garber, pastor of Hampton Baptist Church, was the speaker.

When this Sunday School Annex was first used on Sunday, February 1, 1931, there were five hundred, eighty-six members present. At this time three Divisional Superintendents were elected: Mrs. Ola Lawson, who was the first Children's Division Superintendent; Mrs. Lola Forrest, who was the first Youth Division Superintendent, and R. L. Forrest, Sr., who was the first Adult Superintendent.

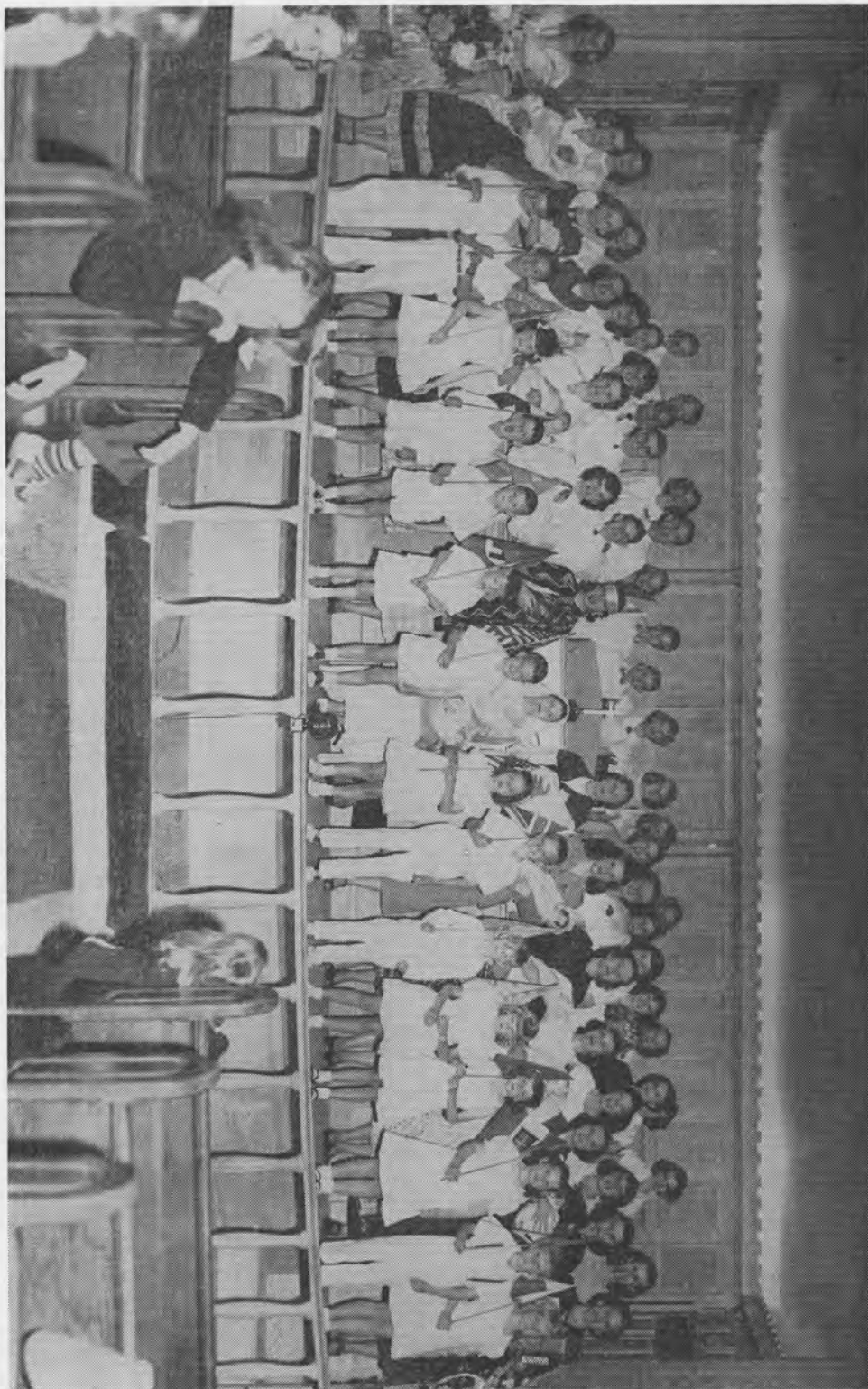
In September, 1935, the Sunday School began presenting Bibles to each child who was promoted from the Primary Department to the Junior Department. In twenty-four years, 789 Bibles have been presented.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Ira Astin Trinity purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Hunt to be used for a 'Community House. This house was located about two hundred, fifty yards north of the Sanctuary on the opposite side of the highway. The purchase price was four thousand, seven hundred dollars. This house was used successfully for various meetings for the Young People and Church. It was often used for Wednesday evening prayer service, and for entertaining the Norfolk District Conference in 1943.

In October of 1944 when the "Crusade For Christ" was inaugurated, Trinity set as a goal five thousand dollars. As a result the amount of six thousand, four hundred dollars was pledged and paid.

Truly it can be said, Trinity has always "abounded in every good work", inasmuch as the needy at home and abroad have been recipients of a generous liberality. This ministering has included the building of a house for the unfortunate and many other manifestation of Christian concern. The Crusade For Christ is a typical example of Trinity's concern for the program of the Church.





PIPE ORGAN ARRIVED 1949

On February 12, 1950 the Congregation voted unanimously to begin a remodeling program which included the purchase and installation of a three-manual Reuter Pipe Organ, and also the rearrangement and decoration of the Sanctuary. In June of 1950 the plans for this work were completed, except for making arrangements to borrow the needed money. Realizing that a Quarterly Conference was necessary, the Church asked that one be held. The following letter is the one Rev. Ralph J. Yow, pastor, received from the District Superintendent, Dr. Frank L. Wells, on June 28, 1950: "I am hereby authorizing you to call a special Quarterly Conference to transact any business related to the program for improvement at Trinity Church and especially to instruct the Trustees with reference to borrowing the amount necessary to carry out the program."

"I am very much interested in the splendid forward movement of that Congregation and I do not believe that the debt they plan to incur will burden them too much. Their spirit in all the program of the Church is wonderful."

On July 12, 1950 the pastor called a special Quarterly Conference. The following motion was made by M. B. Rollins, Chairman of the Official Board, and seconded By R. Crooks Lawson, "I move that this special session of East York Quarterly Conference authorize the Trustees of Trinity Church to borrow an amount of money, not to exceed thirty thousand dollars, to be used in financing the building program of Trinity Methodist Church, Messick, Virginia." The motion was adopted with nine affirmative votes and no negative votes. Three of the brethren present did not vote, but later expressed themselves as not being opposed to the work being done in the Church and pledged their support in meeting the cost of the building program. The Board



of Trustees had previously sought information concerning the amount of money which could be borrowed on the present plant, and learned that thirty thousand dollars was available at the rate of 5½ per cent interest. The improvement totaled forty-two thousand dollars. Of this amount three thousand dollars was borrowed from the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, five thousand dollars was netted from the sale of the Community House, and thirty thousand dollars was borrowed from local banks. The committee on this project was: W. Herbert Amory, Chairman; Arthur J. Page, Secretary; W. M. Rollins, R. C. Lawson, C. T. Forrest, G. S. Forrest, and W. W. Joyner.

At the Second Quarterly Conference Dr. Wells authorized the pastor to call a Church Conference with reference to the sale of the Community House. On May 28, 1950 at the close of the Church service this meeting was called by the pastor. John F. Rollins made a motion that the minimum price be five thousand dollars and the motion was seconded by H. Garland Forrest, Sr. A vote was taken and the motion carried. On September 17 the Board of Trustees met and a bid of five thousand dollars was submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Carroll T. Forrest. The Board accepted this bid.

The authorized work on the Sanctuary was begun on Monday, February 20, and R. R. Rollins, Jr. was contractor. Williams, Coile, and Blanchard were the architects.

During this renovation period, the pews were removed and stored in various places in the community, free of charge. Preaching services were held in the Messick Theater, which also was without cost to the Church. The Men's Bible Class held meetings there also, but the other classes met in their regular assigned rooms at the Church.

Prior to 1949 the membership of the East York Charge had begun to discuss the possibility of making two stations of the Charge. Let it be understood that the Churches had worked with great Christian harmony and with noted success over the period of years. However, the tremendous growth in membership pointed clearly to the need for two full-time ministers.

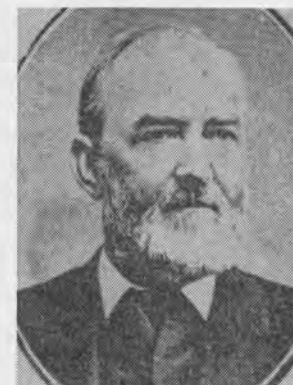
On September 18, 1950 a meeting of the Official Board of the Charge was called to meet at Tabernacle, and the Chairman, George R. Hopkins, yielded to the minister, who presided. After the singing of "A Charge to Keep I Have", the minister led in prayer. The Chairman stated the purpose of the meeting, namely, to discuss plans for the proposed separation of the two Churches. Emmitt B. Page was elected Secretary. The roll was called and the following members answered present: Trinity--G. S. Forrest, Emmitt B. Page, W. Herbert Amory, Arthur J. Page, Lem Evans, John B. Graham, Healy Topping, Littleton Insley, Carroll T. Forrest, Alfred Carmines, and R. Crooks Lawson; Tabernacle--George R. Hopkins, L. I. Burcher, John E. Gillispie, T. M. Watkins, Herbert Moore, Harry Holloway, Wilsie Hunt, Robert F. Holloway, Ben Freeman, Carlton Lawson, Frank Hunt, J. T. Amory, Jr. and Aldrich S. Forrest. Arthur J. Page read a letter from



J. E. McSPARRAN  
1884-1885



CHAS. R. TAYLOR  
1886-1889



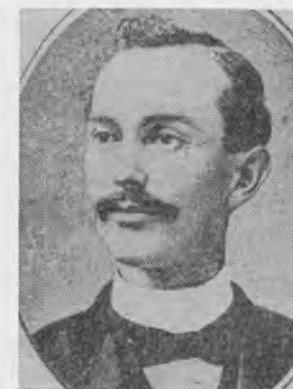
JOS. E. POTTS  
1890-1893



CHAS. E. HOBDAV  
1894-1896



J. S. WALLACE  
1897-1898  
1911-1912



L. J. PHAUP  
1898-1900



J. W. NICKOLSON  
1901-1902

1900-1901

the district Superintendent with reference to the proposed plan. Dr. Wells stated in the letter that it was necessary for him to know at once the results of this Conference.

A motion was made by John Gillispie, seconded by W. Herbert Amory, to consider the practicality of each Church having a full-time minister. After some discussion a vote was taken and seventeen affirmative votes were cast. W. Herbert Amory made a motion that Tabernacle and Trinity become Stations, each with its own minister. A vote was then taken and again there were seventeen affirmative votes and four negative.

It was also formally moved and seconded that the minister inform every member of the Quarterly Conference and advise them to be present at a Quarterly Conference on Saturday evening, September 30, at Trinity Church for the consideration of this matter.

At this Conference Dr. Frank L. Wells was in the Chair. After the regular business of the Conference had been disposed of, the order of the day was called, namely, the consideration of the resolution to make Tabernacle and Trinity Stations. The District Superintendent, after making certain pertinent statements, asked that the respective groups meet to discuss the salary which should be paid by each Charge. After due deliberation the groups reassembled and brought a report with reference to the salary; namely, three thousand dollars for each minister. Dr. Wells assured the groups that after a meeting with Bishop W. W. Peele on the 9th of October, he would report back to them through their minister.

At this Conference a committee was appointed to reach an agreement on the price of the East York Parsonage. Representing Trinity were the following: Healy Topping, W. M. Rollins, W. R. Holloway, Arthur J. Page, V. E. Watkins, Trustees; M. B. Rollins, member from Board; Mrs. Marion Page member at large. Representing Tabernacle were: Dr. E. P. White, Mrs. Carrie W. Moore, P. R. Carmines, J. T. Amory, Jr., H. F. Hunt, Trustees; John E. Gillispie, member from Board; Mrs. Emily Smith, member at large. When the price was set, Tabernacle bought our equity in the parsonage for three thousand, seven hundred, eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

Upon the meeting of the Annual Conference in Richmond October 19-23, 1950, East York Charge became Tabernacle and Trinity Charges. The Conference appointed W. Douglas Williams to Trinity and O. B. Carter to Tabernacle. Dr. Williams remained pastor of Trinity until the Annual Conference met in Roanoke in June, 1957.

The new Trinity Station was without a parsonage. After a great deal of investigation, the committee appointed to secure a home for their minister found the present building which was the only available house at that time. The original price which included most of the furniture was nine thousand dollars. An additional two thousand dollars was spent to make two bedrooms on the second floor.



CHOIR 1920-1930

At the time Dr. Williams came to Trinity, the Church was in the process of remodeling and redecorating the Sanctuary. He preached his first sermon Sunday, November 3, 1950 in the Messick Theater. Preaching services were held continuously in the Theater until December 17, 1950 at which time the Congregation moved back to the Sanctuary.

To harmonize the interior of the Sanctuary, new pulpit furniture was necessary, and George W. Amory, Jr. of Central Church, Hampton (now deceased) gave the complete Chancel furniture in memory of his father, George W. Amory, Sr. who had been a life-long member of Trinity. This furniture was presented to the Church officially on Easter Sunday, March 25, 1951.

A Baptismal Fount was presented to the Church by the Women's Bible Class in 1956.

Although Trinity has always been in the Virginia Annual Conference, the Congregation has been assigned to several different Districts. Upon its organization it was placed on the Norfolk District. In 1885 when the Annual Conference met in Petersburg this Church was transferred to the Eastern Shore District. The Annual Conference of 1889, meeting in Richmond, transferred the Congregation to the Richmond District. Again in 1907 the Congregation was transferred to the Rappahannock District. The Annual Conference of 1912, meeting in Lynchburg, transferred Trinity back to the Norfolk District, where the Church remained until the formation of the Peninsula District in 1954.

For a number of years prior to the meeting of the Annual Conference in Richmond June 14-17, 1954 there had been much discussion concerning a Peninsula District. The Portsmouth and Newport News District and the Norfolk District were greatly concerned. The leadership of the Districts was highly in favor of this move as were also many other churchmen. The matter was brought to the Conference floor by



Dr. W. K. Haddock, Superintendent of the Norfolk District. A very lengthy discussion followed. A minister of the Winchester District was recognized and spoke on the question. He then moved the adoption of the question, a second was had, and the motion was carried overwhelmingly. At the Conference of 1957 this same minister, Dr. Harvey K. Swann, was appointed to serve Trinity Church. The District was originally composed of twenty-six pastoral charges, all of which are on the Peninsula. Twelve were from the Norfolk District, including Trinity, and fourteen were from the Portsmouth and Newport News District. Dr. William P. Watkins was appointed the first Superintendent and is serving at the present time.

Two years after the formation of the new District Trinity was debt free with a small surplus. However, there was the age-old problem--the plant was too small to adequately serve the growing School. To meet this need immediate steps were taken by the Church. On January 8, the Official Board met and reports were made by the Trustees with reference to the purchasing of desired property. On January 29, a special Quarterly Conference was called for the express purpose of purchasing the property of Mrs. Blanche Martin Adrian. The following report was offered at the Conference: The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Arthur J. Page, reported that Mrs. Adrian had been contacted with reference to purchasing her property and the price would be six thousand, five hundred dollars. The Chairman recommended to the Official Board that the property be purchased. It was moved and seconded to purchase the same, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. It was also moved and seconded to purchase the property adjacent to the Church owned by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Paul when available. A vote was taken and this motion also carried. This property was purchased on October 18, 1956 at the price of six thousand, five hundred dollars.

On Sunday morning, April 20, 1957, the Congregation was asked to remain after the morning worship service to consider the building of an Educational Annex. The matter was presented to the Congregation by Chairman of the Board Robert S. Holloway, and following discussion, a vote was taken and carried unanimously. J. Elwood Forrest was elected Chairman by the members of the building committee. Helen W. Forrest was elected secretary but later resigned and Arthur J. Page was elected to replace her. This committee was instructed to employ an architect and to generally supervise the building program. After several meetings of the committee and adequate discussion, the architectural firm of Williams, Coile and Blanchard was employed. The contract was awarded July 17, 1958 to the contracting firm of Endebrock and White. On Sunday morning, September 28, 1958, after the sermon by our District Superintendent, the ground-breaking ceremony was held and W. R. Holloway, an honored member of the Official Board, turned the spade of earth.

Trinity has been fortunate through the years in having a progressive and active youth division, which has contributed greatly to both the spiritual and material welfare of the Church. Many contributions have been made to the Church by its young people, but lack of space and record-keeping prevent an accurate account of them.



GROUND BREAKING OF OUR  
FIFTH ADDITION  
SEPTEMBER 28, 1958

The purchase of a three-manual, Reuter Pipe Organ, however, stands out predominantly in this most important division of the Church.

In 1936 a small group of young people formed a junior choir which they called the "Music Club". The Club was composed of members of the Young Peoples' Department and the Senior Department and had as its purpose the promotion of good music in the Church. The group grew, and the need of more adequate accompaniment than a piano could afford became apparent. It was decided that anything less than a pipe organ in the spacious auditorium of Trinity would leave much to be desired. Consequently, this group set a goal to purchase an organ that would meet all the requirements of both the senior and junior choirs for years to come.

The accomplishment of this goal came into being in 1947 when, after many Mother's Day programs, Christmas Programs, donations, and collections through small glass banks in each Sunday School Department, the Music Club, along with the other young people, had raised in excess of seven thousand dollars. It was determined that an organ could be purchased for seven thousand, five hundred dollars, but that installation would increase the cost to more than ten thousand dollars. The Official Board authorized the young people to proceed with the purchase of an organ even beyond the seven thousand, five hundred dollars if necessary, in order to meet all the requirements of the Church. The final installation amounted to almost twenty thousand dollars, since the smaller organ did not seem to be entirely satisfactory, and the young people raised approximately one-half of this amount.



A group that has served Trinity faithfully without compensation is the Choir. The Church has never had an organist, pianist, or choir director outside the community. Very fine music has been rendered, by the senior and junior choirs, including the children's choruses.

Three young men have gone out from this Church as ministers. They are doing well for the ongoing of our Master's work, and the Church is proud of them. The Rev. Robert E. Forrest is the son of the late Robert L. Forrest and Mrs. Cotha Forrest, who now lives in Hampton. Rev. Forrest is now at Central Church on the Alexandria District. The Rev. Milford C. Rollins is the son of M. Buren Rollins and Mrs. Maggie Q. Rollins. Rev. Rollins is now in the King William Charge of the Richmond District. The fathers of both of these boys have been active members of the Official Board of the Church. Garland Hopkins, whose mother, Mrs. Zipporah Hopkins, was a native of the community, and whose father, Edward Hopkins, was a Methodist minister, also is a member of the Virginia Conference.

Several of Trinity's young men have given their lives in war. One was lost in the First World War, namely, Robert Holloway. When World War II came, one hundred, thirty-two young men were called into the service of their country. Of this number, three were killed. They were Granville Adams, Jr., Thornton Holloway, and John Ray Forrest. In the Korean Conflict one of Trinity's boys, Jack Holloway, lost his life.

Trinity, in 1958, began a program of Boy Scouting that has expanded to include the sponsorship of a Cub Scout Pack also. Approximately seventy-five boys of the community are registered in the program at this time.

The Men's Club was organized in June, 1952 with forty members. Although a comparatively new organization, this group, through its monthly fellowship dinner meetings, is contributing its vital part to the program of the Church.

The Men's Chorus is another active group in the Church that is recognized with pride for its fine musical contributions.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was first organized in October, 1903 with Mrs. Melissa Forrest as the first president. After a short time it was disbanded and did not become active again until 1922. Again it ceased until November, 1927 when dues were paid for eighteen active members. The Unions of Tabernacle and Trinity meet together, rotating in places to meet, with meetings held once a quarter. Trinity has forty-five members and five honorary members.

Dr. W. W. Royal, pastor, organized the Woman's Missionary Society, the Young People's Missionary Society and the Children's Missionary Society in 1915 and 1916. The Woman's Missionary Society had fifteen charter members and the first president was Mrs. Ella



D. J. TRAYNHAM  
1903-1906



J. E. DESHAZO  
1907-1908



W. J. WILLIAMS  
1909-1910



R. N. HARTNESS  
1912-1913



W. W. ROYALL  
1914-1917



J. R. EGGLESTON  
1918-1921



H. L. WESTON  
1922-1923



A. W. ROTEN  
1923-1924

Forrest. The leaders of the Young People's Missionary Society and the Children's Missionary Society were Mrs. Mary White Hunt and Mrs. Iola Topping Lawson, respectively. Several members of Trinity's present Society received their missionary training under these leaders.

Trinity's Society decided to have an all-day missionary rally and invite the missionary societies of Tabernacle and Emmaus Churches as guests. The rally was a big success and the fellowship was enjoyed so much, that these churches are continuing to have a rally each year.

In 1927 the circles of the Missionary Society were formed and the Young People's Missionary Society was terminated and formed into a circle. During the first year, one hundred dollars and ninety-three cents was raised by the circles. In addition, each member paid fifty cents and each gave a penny per day extra.

During 1928-1932 each circle made a quilt and sent linens to the Methodist Orphanage. Mrs. Polly Carmines, Mrs. Mary J. Forrest, and Mrs. Bettie Lawson were made honorary members. Miss Bethany Forrest was later made honorary youth member in 1952.

A Spiritual Life Group was organized in 1932. This prayer group met each Tuesday morning for many years and was a great spiritual inspiration to the Society. The Missionary Study Classes were also started this year, the first class being taught in October with the subject "Christ in China".

The Society worked with the Church in connection with the Bishop's Crusade in 1937 and made personal contacts from door to door.

By 1938 Mrs. Ella Forrest had faithfully served a total of eighteen years as president of the Society.

On October 7, 1940, Rev. C. A. Turner presided over the business session of the Society and gave a talk on how the Missionary Society and Ladies Aid Society were being combined into one large organization, known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service. He outlined the purpose for combining the two and described the duties of the officers. The elected president was Mrs. Irene Forrest. The success of the WSCS has proven that the combination of the Societies was a progressive step and also resulted in more efficiency in mission work.

The WSCS then took over the job of collecting "Sunday eggs", which had previously been done by the Ladies Aid Society. The collectors and the givers of the eggs looked forward to and received great blessings from these visits.

When the Norfolk District Conference met at Trinity on May 12, 1943 the Society served the luncheon.

In 1944 missionary study classes were organized and held each quarter and a missionary program was given one Sunday night each month.



W. L. BURKS  
1924-1927



HERMAN L. HASTINGS  
1928-1931



LEE G. CRUTCHFIELD  
1932-1934



B. E. HUTSON  
1935-1938



C. A. TURNER, JR.  
1939-1942



IRA ASTIN  
1943-1946



RALPH J. YOW  
1947-1949



W. D. WILLIAMS  
1950-1956





INTERIOR FINISHED  
DECEMBER 17, 1950

In 1947 Rev. Ira Astin was presented a gift of \$100 as an expression of appreciation for the work he had done at the Community House. The Church observed Fellowship Day in May and Community Day in November in connection with the Council of Churches.

The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in 1948 by Mrs. Ennis, District Organizer, with fourteen charter members. Miss Fannie Ferguson was elected as its first president.

The pledge system was begun in 1949, at which time the members pledged their time, their talents, their money and their prayers. The Society has profited much from this system and the offerings have doubled. In addition to the pledges, a special offering of fifty dollars was paid.

A progressive membership drive was initiated and every woman of the Church was visited and invited to join the Society. The results—30 new members were added to the roll.

Eighteen babies have been made honorary life members of the WSCS.

In 1952 when Youth Activities Week was observed, the Society served the supper. A program was arranged to make money for the Ferrum Emergency Fund, and a set of china was purchased for the parsonage.

The Peninsula District of the WSCS held a Retreat at Trinity, with Mrs. Neil, District Secretary of the Spiritual Life.

Mrs. Betty White was elected president in 1957 and is still serving as president of the Society. The Peninsula District Conference of the WSCS met at Trinity with Mrs. J. A. Ferguson, District President, presiding.

At the request of Dr. Harvey Swann, pastor, the Society arranged an outdoor outing for the people of the community who had reached the age of seventy. Approximately one hundred suppers were served, plates being taken to each individual over seventy who was unable to attend the party. The second "Over Seventy" party was held at the Church in the form of a banquet. Dinners were also carried to those unable to attend.

Each year the World Day of Prayer and Week of Prayer and Self-Denial are observed. Mission classes are also taught each year. The WSCS has contributed immensely to the growth of the Church. It would be impossible to list all of the worthwhile accomplishments of this fine organization.

#### Presidents

1915: Mrs. Ella Forrest  
1923: Mrs. Lillie Forrest  
1924: Mrs. Ella Forrest  
1927: Mrs. Cotha Forrest  
1932: Mrs. Ella Forrest  
1939: Mrs. Irene Forrest  
1944: Mrs. Sara Forrest  
1946: Mrs. Della Johnson  
1947: Mrs. Agnes Carmines  
1948: Mrs. Marion Page  
1952: Mrs. Verlyn Watkins  
1954: Mrs. Chrystal Forrest  
1957: Mrs. Betty White

#### Recipients of Life Membership Certificates and Pins

Mrs. Ella Forrest  
Mrs. Sara Forrest  
Mrs. Martha Bradshaw  
Mrs. Izora Firth  
Mrs. Annie Topping  
Mrs. Marion Page  
Mrs. Ellen Williams  
Mrs. Della Johnson  
Mrs. Agnes Carmines  
Mrs. Betty White

In this seventy-fifth anniversary year one finds many changes. Just as changes come in the lives of individuals, so also do they come in Congregations. The changes at times seem to mark the end of eras that have been cherished, but just as often—or more often—they bring new opportunities. Pathways may turn, but they also widen, and Trinity has continuously exerted itself to meet the challenge of a changing community.



This tremendous growth has seen Trinity pass through many stages. No longer is it necessary to divide the various Sunday School departments by the use of green curtains, which could be drawn to provide an assembly room for the entire school. Rather, each department has its own assembly room and adjoining classrooms.

From its beginning in 1884 Trinity has grown from a membership of twenty-four and a one-room building to a membership of one thousand, one hundred and seventy-eight and a multi-room plant valued at more than a half million dollars. Where there once were just paths, there are now highways. No longer is it necessary to make house to house collections and sell "Sunday eggs" to meet financial obligations. A program of Christian stewardship has promoted an annual budget in excess of forty-five thousand dollars. The Lord has blessed the Congregation of Trinity in such a way that she has never required any assistance that could not be met by her own members.

Trinity has been interwoven with the lives of many loyal Poquoson citizens and from her walls have gone to their Eternal Home many splendid, outstanding Christian men and women.

The first seventy-five years have been good ones for Trinity Church. With God's guidance, the next seventy-five years can be even greater ones.

#### BISHOPS FROM 1884 TO 1959

Bishop Keener	1884-85	Bishop Galloway	1907
Bishop Granberry	1886	Bishop Wilson	1908
Bishop Key	1887	Bishop Morrison	1909
Bishop Granberry	1888	Bishop Wilson	1910
Bishop Wilson	1889	Bishop Kilgo	1911
Bishop Hargrove	1890	Bishop Wilson	1912
Bishop Keener	1891	Bishop Denny	1913
Bishop Hendrix	1892	Bishop Kilgo	1914
Bishop Granberry	1893	Bishop Candler	1915
Bishop Haygood	1894	Bishop Kilgo	1916
Bishop Galloway	1895	Bishop Hoss	1917
Bishop Duncan	1896	Bishop Hendrix	1918-20
Bishop Fitzgerald	1897	Bishop McMurry	1921
Bishop Hargrove	1898	Bishop Candler	1922-25
Bishop Wilson	1899	Bishop Denny	1926-29
Bishop Duncan	1900-02	Bishop Beauchamp	1930
Bishop Hendrix	1903	Bishop Muzon	1931-36
Bishop Wilson	1904	Bishop Arthur J. Moore	1937
Bishop Galloway	1905	Bishop Walter W. Peele	1938-50
Bishop Hendrix	1906	Bishop Paul N. Garber	1950

#### PRESIDING ELDERS AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS,

1884-1959

W. E. Judkins	1884-5	R. F. Gayle	1908
J. H. Amiss	1886-7	W. G. Boggs	1909-12
J. D. Hank	1888-9	G. W. Jones	1913-16
Paul Whitehead	1890-3	T. N. McSimpson	1917-19
A. G. Brown	1894-7	J. J. Bradford	1920-23
R. T. Wilson	1898	G. W. Jones	1924-27
J. P. Garland	1899-1901	R. H. Potts	1928
R. N. Bennett	1902	J. T. Bosman	1929-31
W. V. Tudor	1903-6	Wm. Archie Wright	1932-34
E. H. Rawlings	1907	Thomas F. Carroll	1935-38

#### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, NORFOLK DISTRICT

W. C. Gum	1939-44	Edgar A. Potts	1950-51
Frank L. Wells	1945-49	W. Kenneth Haddock	1952-53

#### PENINSULA DISTRICT

Wm. P. Watkins	1954
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#### PASTORS FROM 1884 TO 1959

J. E. McSparran	1884-5	J. R. Eggleston	1918-21
C. R. Taylor	1886-9	H. L. Weston	1922
Joseph E. Potts	1890-3	A. W. Roten	1923
C. E. Hobday	1894-6	W. L. Burks	1924-27
J. S. Wallace	1897	H. L. Hastings	1928-31
L. J. Phaup	1898-1900	L. G. Crutchfield	1932-34
J. W. Nickolson	1901-2	B. E. Hudson	1935-38
D. J. Traynham	1903-6	C. A. Turner, Jr.	1939-42
J. E. Deshazo	1907-8	Ira Astin	1943-46
W. J. Williams	1909-10	Ralph J. Yow	1947-49
J. S. Wallace	1911	W. D. Williams	1950-56
R. N. Hartness	1912-13	Harvey K. Swann	1957
W. W. Royall	1914-17		

#### CHURCH TRUSTEES

Arthur J. Page, Chairman	V. E. Watkins
W. W. Joyner	Henry B. Hunt
W. M. Rollins	

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

Presiding Bishop .....	Paul Neff Garber, Ph. D.
District Superintendent .....	William P. Watkins, D. D.
Minister .....	Harvey K. Swann, Th. D., D. D.
Church Lay Leader & Treasurer .....	Carroll T. Forrest
Church Secretary .....	Brenda Edwards
Custodian .....	Herbert Freeman

## OFFICIAL BOARD

D. Lester Carmines, Chairman	R. Sidney Holloway
Charlie T. Powell, Vice Chairman	R. W. Holloway
Mrs. Verlyn Watkins, Secretary	Raymond Holloway, Jr.
Marvin Bloxom	S. D. Holloway, (Honorary)
Mrs. Ola Bunting	T. C. Holloway
Alfred W. Carmines	W. R. Holloway
John S. Carmines	John Henley
D. L. Diggs	Tom Hudgins
George W. Evans (Honorary)	Henry B. Hunt
Lem Evans (Honorary)	John H. Insley, Jr.
Mrs. Annie Evans	W. W. Joyner
Harry Evans	Charles Leeper
Holston C. Evans	Arthur J. Page
Carroll T. Forrest	Emmitt B. Page
Mrs. Anne S. Foeste	Mrs. Mary Paul
Mrs. Chrystal Forrest	Mrs. Nell Paul
G. S. Forrest	Estrich Page, Jr.
Mrs. Helen W. Forrest	Mrs. Mary Quinn
Howard G. Forrest, Jr.	Benton Rollins
J. Elwood Forrest	John F. Rollins
Thomas W. Forrest	M. Buren Rollins
Elvin Freeman, Sr.	W. M. Rollins, Sr. (Honorary)
Elvin Freeman, Jr.	James Teague
John B. Graham	Godwin White
R. S. Holloway	Wally Gene White
V. E. Watkins	Mrs. A. M. White

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent .....	J. Elwood Forrest
Superintendent, Adult Division .....	Obie Page
Superintendent, Youth Division .....	Raymond Holloway, Jr.
Superintendent, Children's Division .....	Mrs. Mary Quinn
Superintendent, Cultivation & Promotion .....	Alton M. White, Holston C. Evans
Secretary .....	Arthur J. Page
Treasurer of Sunday School and Church .....	Carroll T. Forrest



CORNER STONE LAYING SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 19TH, 1959  
Left to right Raymond White The Contractor, J. Ellwood Forrest, Chairman Building Committee and Dr. Harvey K. Swann, Minister.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS FROM 1884 TO 1959

George Wesley Amory	W. R. Holloway
Joseph M. Holloway	W. Herbert Amory
Healy Topping	J. Elwood Forrest

## CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Membership and Evangelism .....	Wally Gene White
Education .....	Mrs. Irene Forrest
Missions .....	Mrs. Chrystal Forrest
Stewardship and Finance .....	John B. Graham
Pastoral Relations .....	G. S. Forrest
Records .....	Arthur J. Page
Audit .....	G. S. Forrest
Temperance .....	Mrs. Della Johnson
Music .....	Mrs. Lillie Forrest
Property .....	Harry Evans
Literature .....	Mrs. Irene Forrest
Policy .....	Arthur J. Page
Welfare .....	Mrs. Mary Forrest
Ushers .....	John F. Rollins
Communion .....	Mrs. Mary Paul
President of Men's Club .....	W. W. Forrest

## Committee On History

A. J. Page

R. S. Holloway

H. G. Forrest, Jr.

Mrs. H. G. Forrest, Jr.

Carroll T. Forrest

Harvey Evans

Dr. Harvey K. Swann

36 pictures  
<sup>5</sup>  
180

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